

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/740,583

Examiner

Albert W Paladini

Applicant(s)

ALDEN ET AL.

Art Unit

2125

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed on 12/18/00.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-29.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 18 December 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 3/12/01
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

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Albert W Paladini
Albert W Paladini
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2125

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the references cited or the art searched disclose or teach alone or in combination a method for visualizing changes in a system model by constructing an influence diagram which includes data entities and calculation entities, which have specific shapes, and are connected by arrows. In addition, the art searched does not disclose the specific steps of modifying the appearance of the influence diagram by the specific data assignments, and calculations recited in claims 1, 13, and 20.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Relevant Prior Art

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Pabon (5251290) discloses a system and method for geometric modeling where the computation time is linearly related to the number of geometric constraints, which significantly reduces the time to visualize changes to the geometric model.

Frizelle (5617321) discloses an apparatus for optimizing the design of a manufacturing process which provides a full simulation of the manufacturing process using

Art Unit: 2125

the information therein and provides an output to a simulator display 32 to enable an operator to visualize the result of the simulation process.

Kato (5999185) discloses a virtual reality data presentation system where the reality of the presented data can be increased by the method called texture mapping in which the texture expressing the material property of the objects in the 3D model is attached to the objects in the 3D model. There is a proposition for switching one texture image with another texture image in which the pattern is shown more clearly whenever the distance from the viewpoint becomes less than a prescribed value. However, in this modified method, there is a drawback in that the switching of the images must be made so abruptly that the large changes of the details of the appearance before and after the switching can make it appear rather unnatural. In order to achieve the smooth changes of the appearance, a large number of images must be provided and the switching operation must be repeated.

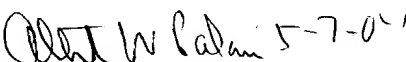
Nevin (6714936) discloses a method and system for displaying data and its relationships where interactions with the user organize the data from a defined, and then refined, point of view, with relevant data brought to their attention by smooth changes in the data's appearance.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be direct to Albert W. Paladini whose telephone number is (703) 308-2005. The examiner can normally be reached from 7:30 to 3:30 PM on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Leo P. Picard, can be reached on (703) 308-0538. The official fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

May 4, 2004


Albert W. Paladini
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2125

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